

## REVIEW

*Southern California Gardens, An Illustrated History.* By VICTORIA PADILLA. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. 1961. 379 pages. 170 illustrations, 15 in color. \$10.00.

The passing parade of plants, people and events presented to the reader of this history of ornamental horticulture in southern California is an impressive one indeed. The story of "Southern California Gardens" begins with the Franciscan missionaries who came northward from Baja California to form a chain of missions from San Diego to Sonoma from 1769 to 1823. They brought with them a number of plants mostly for agricultural purposes, but some were ornamentals and among these were several trees which are today so much a part of our landscape that we take them for granted. Olive, pepper, fig, and citrus trees are but a few. The story is carried on from this early beginning down to the present time.

Through the early history, but particularly beginning with the last quarter of the 19th century, are told the stories of those horticulturists and gardeners responsible for bringing plants from other parts of the country and from Europe, those who had the vision to realize that new plants could be grown here, and who persisted and were successful in their efforts. It is surprising, in fact, how many plants were brought here before the beginning of our present century. For those who have lived in southern California, reading Miss Padilla's personal sketches of these horticulturists is reading the stories of one's friends. Her characterizations are warmly and personally told.

Miss Padilla is a gardener herself and has a personal knowledge of and acquaintance with the people and the plants that she has written about. She has been a prominent member for many years of the Southern California Horticultural Institute, the organization which sponsored the publication of this history.

The format of the book is excellent, and the photographs, including several in color, are of good quality and well reproduced. A list of the plant introductions of Dr. Franceschi, Hugh Evans, E. O. Orpet, and the former Evans and Reeves nursery firm, and the horticultural features of the several parks of the City of Los Angeles add to the interest of the book. A bibliography gives some of the sources of material consulted by the author. The nomenclature of the plants is accurate. There is, however, one criticism which this reviewer offers regarding the way in which the names of the horticultural or cultivated varieties (cultivars) are written. According to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, names of cultivated varieties (cultivars) are to be enclosed in single quotes and *not* double quotes. Throughout this book double quotes are used, this in direct contradiction to the International Code. There did not seem to be any explanation on the part of the publisher for not following this very simple international rule.

Interesting and authoritative, and written in a charming style, this book is highly recommended for all those interested in southern California horticulture and gardens, and there is, in fact, enough of general interest to recommend it for all those interested in California horticulture and gardens. ELIZABETH McCLINTOCK, Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.